



MEDIA RELEASE

Stabbing Investigation Now Considered a Gang Incident

SANTA BARBARA, CA – June 11, 2013

Investigators have now determined this to be a gang incident. This investigation is ongoing and additional details are being withheld.

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On June 11, 2013, at 12:01 a.m., officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department responded to a report of a stabbing victim that had just arrived at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Emergency Room. The victim is a 33-year old Santa Barbara resident who was suffering from multiple stab wounds. His wounds are serious and he was admitted to the hospital for treatment; he is however expected to survive. The victim has local gang affiliation, but in recent years has not been known by the police to be an active gang member.

Officers located what is believed to be the crime scene on the 400 block of W. Ortega Street. Investigation indicates that following the incident the victim encountered an acquaintance driving by on Castillo Street. When the acquaintance learned that the victim had just been stabbed he drove the victim to the hospital. This investigation is still ongoing and investigators have not yet determined if this is a gang incident.

Coincidentally, the victim of the stabbing had been arrested and booked into Santa Barbara County Jail three days earlier on June 8, 2013 for peeping while prowling, use of a controlled substance, and resisting or delaying an officer. These crimes are misdemeanors and carry a bail amount of \$2,500.00. At 10:00 a.m. on that occasion SBPD officers responded to a call of two subjects, a male and a female, prowling on the 00 block of E. Islay Street. The subjects were observed trespassing on private property, checking doors and windows, and looking over fences into surrounding properties. When the first officers arrived the male suspect, last night's stabbing victim, was seen running away. Following a brief foot pursuit the suspect was caught by Officer Aaron Denbrook on the property of a residence on the 1700 block of Anacapa Street. Following the suspect's arrest it was discovered that he had used heroin earlier in the day. The female suspect in that incident was not located.

At this time there is no indication that the circumstances surrounding the aforementioned stabbing and the victim's earlier arrest are related.

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